

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment and remarks which follow are responsive to the Advisory Action mailed January 30, 2007 in relation to the above-identified patent application. In that Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that Applicant's proposed Amendment filed January 8, 2007 would not be entered due to new issues that would purportedly require further consideration and/or search being raised by such Amendment. However, the Examiner also indicated that the current status of the claims is that Claims 11-19 are allowed, Claims 1-4, 7 and 20 are objected to, and Claims 5, 6 and 8-10 are rejected. Based on the breakdown of allowed, rejected and objected to subject matter as set forth in the prior Office Action mailed November 7, 2006, Applicant assumes that it was the Examiner's intention in the subject Advisory Action to characterize Claims 1-4, 7 and 20 as being rejected rather than being objected to, and to characterize Claims 5, 6 and 8-10 as being objected to rather than being rejected.

By this latest Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10, and has cancelled Claims 2-5 and 20. More particularly, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite the features originally set forth in cancelled Claim 5. Due to Claim 5 only having been objected to by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, as are Claims 6 and 7 as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. In this regard, Claim 6 has also been amended only to change its dependency to Claim 1.

In addition, Claim 8 has been amended to recite the features set forth in Claim 1 prior to its modification via the present Amendment. Due to Claim 8 also only having been objected to by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended version thereof is also in condition for allowance, as are Claims 9 and 10 as being dependent an allowable base claim. In this regard, Claims 9 and 10 have also each been amended only to make the language thereof consistent to that of underlying independent Claim 8. As indicated above, Claims 11-19 as set forth in the present Amendment have been deemed allowable by the Examiner.

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On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the stated grounds of rejection have been overcome, and that Claims 1 and 6-19 are now in condition for allowance. Additionally, in as much as Applicant has simply placed the objected to subject matter into condition for allowance by the present Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that such Amendment does not raise new issues which would require further consideration or search on the part of the Examiner, and therefore respectfully requests that the same be considered and entered by the Examiner. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/6/07

By:



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